

Title: Border Security, Illegal Immigration and the Christian's Response

Text: "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

Target: The calling of God on a nation is to uphold justice, extend compassion and ensure security.

I. Bible Framework of Immigration:

- A. One People Under God:** Tower of Babel and the dispersion of the nations (Genesis 11)
- B. Boundaries Determine Nations:** "And he made from one man every **nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the **boundaries** of their dwelling place" (Acts 17:26)
- C. Sojourners/Strangers Become Citizens:** "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. **You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you,** and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34)
- D. Required Submission to the Law:** "But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the **native or the stranger who sojourns among you**" (Leviticus 18:26)
- E. Laws Govern FOR the People:** "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

II. See the Immigrant in Immigration:

- A. Imago Dei:** Every person crossing the border is an image bearer of God (Genesis 1:26-27)
- B. Seeking Economic Opportunity:** Economic instability, unemployment rates, poverty (Leviticus 25:35)
- C. Escaping Violence and Crime:** Safety and protection (Zechariah 7:10)
- D. Political and Religious Persecution or Instability:** Seeking asylum (Deuteronomy 1:16)
- E. Social Services & Better Life:** American dream (Galatians 2:10)
- F. Family Reunification:** Reunification of family (1 Peter 2:13-16)

III. The Crisis at the Border:

- A. Safety for Border Agents and Border Towns:** Outnumbered and overrun
- B. Criminal Activity:** Human smuggling & trafficking, drug trafficking
- C. Exploitation of the Vulnerable:** Desperate people do desperate things
- D. Strain on Social Services:** Children services, health care, education, social welfare, FEMA
- E. Threat to National Security:** Criminal activity, domestic threats
- F. Community Overcrowding & Employment Shortage:** Causing animosity and disruption

IV. Balanced Approach to Immigration:

- A. Comprehensive Immigration Reform:** Bipartisan effort that makes security the priority of our borders and the interest of all Americans, not at the expense of humanitarian needs.
- B. Empowered Enforcement of Policies:** Hold lawmakers accountable for encouraging and rewarding the breaking of INA policy and allow border officers to enforce the law fully.
- C. Enhanced Border Security:** Increase physical barriers, expand use of technology to cover more territories, increase personnel.
- D. Unify the Mission:** Federal agents, state and local law enforcement must work together to create security.
- E. Asylum Policy Defined, Visa Caps Expanded:** Clarify and streamline the process with pre-arrival documentation, address the backlogs, increase shortage of immigration judges, and create legal assistance for proper documentation.
- F. Family Reunion Credibility Checks:** Children cannot be given over to someone without proper documentation and verification of relation.

V. Churches Response to the Immigration Crisis:

- A. The Great Commission is being fulfilled:** Matthew 28:18-20
- B. Non-Profit Ministry Support:** Support or serve within agencies that provide services to immigrants in your community.
- C. Immigration Lawyer Services:** Allow membership to be reconnected with fellow congregants who need assistance.
- D. ESL:** English as a Second Language. (Allows you to share your Faith)
- E. Language Based Community Groups:** Language based groups allow people from different countries to find a piece of home.
- F. Mobilize Evangelicals to Vote:** Hold policy makers who create open borders with the question of why overrun the process at the expense of the American people.

Takeaway: The border crisis is not just a political issue, it is a Gospel issue.